

**METHOD OF OPTIMIZING PATIENT OUTCOME FROM EXTERNAL  
COUNTERPULSATION THERAPY**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5 A method of data management for optimizing the patient outcome from the  
provision of external counterpulsation (ECP) therapy is described. This method  
describes a process by which sets of dynamic cardiopulmonary dependent variables  
are measured during steady-state conditions, displayed, and translated into  
quantitative and qualitative measurements while the independent variables of ECP,  
cuff inflation delay and cuff inflation pressure settings of ECP systems, are altered by  
10 a physician. In combination with visual observation and computer-assisted ranking of  
the dependent variables, a physician can utilize the resulting information to render  
decisions on the optimal choice of the independent variables. Additionally, the same  
measurement equipment can be used chronically to assess patient outcome in terms of  
mortality predictors. The method will enable physicians to collect, view, track and  
15 manage complicated data using well-understood visualization techniques to better  
understand the consequences, acutely and chronically, of their therapeutic actions in  
general, and of their provision of ECP therapy in particular.